

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in conclusion, let me say that it is unusual, to say the least, for two Senators from the same State to differ on projects of this matter. I am sorry that seems to be the case here. But let me say in conclusion and in summary that there are 571 Federal wildlife refuges in the Nation but not one in Kentucky. We are long overdue for our first Federal wildlife refuge. This proposal was developed over a number of years in cooperation with the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Service, and over 57 sportsmen and conservation groups from across Kentucky feel that this great need should be met.

No land under this proposal will be taken from anyone—only from willing sellers. It is my hope, Mr. President, that this proposal authorizing and appropriating some money to begin Kentucky's first Federal wildlife refuge will be a part of the Interior appropriations bill.

I hope my colleague will not offer an amendment to strip out the money provided—whatever money is ultimately provided—for this first Federal wildlife refuge in order to give it to the Tennessee Valley Authority which says it does not need it.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LOTT. I know there are a number of Members who are waiting and wondering what the schedule might be for the remainder of the evening. We are working very aggressively to try to come to a unanimous consent agreement that would allow us to go forward with amendments and debate on those amendments tonight and complete those amendments tonight, if we could get this agreement worked out, with the votes stacked beginning at 10 o'clock on Friday morning.

We are still working with Members on both sides. I think it is, frankly, urgent that we go ahead and get this agreement entered into momentarily. We are very close to that. But as usual, we are trying to check with all the Senators who are interested in the subject matter to see if we can get that worked out.

In the meantime, Mr. President, before I do a statement, let me again observe the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. 1174

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to the consideration of S. 1174, regarding the Lamprey River in New Hampshire, the bill be advanced to third reading and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, speaking on behalf of the leader on our side, I reserve the right to object.

I wonder if the Senator from New Hampshire would amend his request to include the following: That the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 599, S. 608, that the committee amendments be agreed to, the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. STEVENS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, on behalf of the leadership, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, do I still have the floor?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I do not know about the other bill that was attempted to be added to my request for consideration of a bill, but I would just like my colleagues to know that this bill, S. 1174, passed unanimously out of committee with bipartisan support. It was placed on the calendar by the majority leader. It has the unanimous support of everyone on the Republican side. It has the support of my State of New Hampshire. It has the support of the individuals who helped to put this river into the wild and scenic bill. It is 12 miles of a beautiful river that we now preserve under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, if this legislation passes.

I find it outrageous that, for whatever reasons, political or otherwise, a piece of legislation that has that much support would be objected to; tying it, linking it to some other legislation. I think the other legislation can rise or fall on its own merit. This is a good bill.

Mr. President, on August 10, 1995, Senator GREGG and I introduced S. 1174, the Lamprey Wild and Scenic River Act, to designate a segment of the Lamprey River in New Hampshire as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Since introduction, a hearing was held on the legislation in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and soon thereafter, as I

said, the bill was reported unanimously out of the committee.

I introduced this legislation after receiving the vote of support from each of the affected communities along this segment of the River. Ordinarily I do not encourage Federal ownership and control of State or private property, however, this legislation is different.

The process for developing this legislation was different for two reasons. First, the legislation was developed from the bottom up, from environmentally conscious communities and local people. It is not a Washington initiative. Second, the bill is drafted to allow for maximum control at the local level in making land use and conservation decisions.

The history of this legislation goes back almost 5 years when Senator Rudman and I introduced the Lamprey River study bill in February 1991, which was subsequently signed into law by President Bush later that year. Once the National Park Service determined the Lamprey River's eligibility for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, a local advisory committee was formed to work with local communities, landowners, the National Park Service and New Hampshire's environment department in preparing a comprehensive management plan. This management plan was completed in January 1995.

The Lamprey River Management Plan was subsequently endorsed by the advisory committee as well as the local governments affected by this designation. The primary criteria for my sponsorship of this legislation was the support of the local communities. If the affected towns did not vote in favor of designation, I would not be here today seeking support for this legislation.

In fact, the town of Epping had expressed some reservation about designating the segment of the Lamprey which runs through the town and, out of respect for their concerns, the bill excludes that segment of the river. However, that segment was studied and found to be eligible, so we have included a section in our bill that would allow the town of Epping to be involved in the implementation of the management plan and, upon the town's request, be considered for future designation.

The Lamprey River is well deserving of this designation for a number of reasons. Not only is the river listed on the 1982 National Park Service's inventory of outstanding rivers, but it has also been recognized by the State of New Hampshire as the "most important coastal river for anadromous fish in the State." Herring, Shad and Salmon are among the anadromous species found in the river. In fact, New Hampshire fishing maps describe the Lamprey as "a truly exceptional river offering a vast variety of fishing. It contains every type of stream and river fish you could expect to find in New England."

The Lamprey is approximately 60 miles in length and serves as the major